



‘ To conclude ; We can, upon the whole freely declare  
 ‘ our Opinion, That Almighty GOD hath begun, and now,  
 ‘ for *more than two Years*, been carrying on a *glorious Reformation* and *Revival* of pure and undefiled Religion among  
 ‘ the People of our Charge ; *convincing*, hopefully *converting*,  
 ‘ and greatly *sanctifying*, *quicken*ing and *comforting* many  
 ‘ among Us, by a wonderful Effusion of the DIVINE  
 ‘ SPIRIT, accompanying the Word, Ordinances and Pro-  
 ‘ vidences. And that GOD hath been exceeding good to  
 ‘ us in preserving us from such Errors, Separations, and  
 ‘ Disorders, which, we have heard have been in some other  
 ‘ Places. For which, may God have all the Glory.

‘ Thus we have endeavoured to give a *just Account* of [the  
 ‘ late remarkable *Revival* of Religion in WRENTHAM ;  
 ‘ with an exact Regard to Truth, according to our Observa-  
 ‘ tion and Remembrance, of Persons, Conversations, and  
 ‘ Events.

‘ Now, earnestly wishing the Prosperity of Zion ; and  
 ‘ begging the Prayers of GOD’s People for us, and the  
 ‘ People under our immediate Care. We Subscribe

HENRY MESSINGER, Pastor of the *first* Church  
 in WRENTHAM.

ELIAS HAVEN, Pastor of the *second* Church  
 in WRENTHAM.

Wrentham, Aug. 12. 1743.

N. B. The Rev. Mr. Prince has the following Information  
 from the Rev. Mr. COTTON of Newton, referring to one  
 remarkable Instance, which fell under his Observation, when  
 occasionally at Wrentham in August 1742. Which we think  
 proper to communicate to the Publick, in Addition to the foregoing  
 Account.

“THE *first* Person that *cried out* under the preaching of the  
 Word, in the first Parish of Wrentham, was a Man more  
 than 40 Years old, at a Lecture, Aug. 19. 1742, when Mr.  
 Cotton was preaching from *Matth. 11. 28*. Towards the close  
 of the Sermon, the said Person *spoke out* with much Concern  
 and Distress about the State of his Soul. --- Soon after the  
 Congregation was dismiss’d, he went to discourse with Mr.

Cotton ;

*Cotton* ; who asking him the *Reason* of his crying out in the Assembly, in the Manner he had done, the Man reply'd, That he could not avoid his doing so ; tho' he had often spake against other People's crying out, and had said that they might, if they would, refrain from it, and not disturb the Congregation in hearing.

--- He then added, that he went to *that Lecture*, with a more serious *Concern* upon his Mind, than he had commonly done, that he might get Good by that Opportunity ; and he said, that the *Word* he heard, came with such *Power* upon him, that he could not help crying out, and speaking as he did.---When Inquiry was made concerning his spiritual State, he declar'd, He had been an honest, moral Liver ; had pray'd constantly in his Family, tho' not so constantly in secret ; had made Conscience of attending the publick Worship of GOD, lov'd to hear (as he tho't) faithful Preaching ; --- and he had been ready to conclude, he was in a good and safe State, and all was well with him. But *now* he was bro't to see his Sin, Misery, and Danger, in a natural State, and his Need of Christ to help & save him ; and to see that if a new & saving *Change* was not wrought by the SPIRIT of GOD upon his Heart, he should be *undone for ever* ! --- And he express'd his Fears that the Day of Grace was over as to him, and that there was now no Hope for him.--- Upon which it was suggested to him, that now the SPIRIT of GOD was so *striving* with him, he might be assur'd, that there was *Hope* concerning him ; and it look'd as tho' GOD *was waiting to be gracious*, if such Convictions were cherish'd.

Mr. *Cotton* gave him what Advice and Direction he tho't needful, for one in his State and Circumstances, upon his first coming to him.--- He came *again* the next Morning, and was in as great Distress as before, because of the Provocations he had given to the SPIRIT of GOD to forsake him, and to *strive no more* with him ; but yet declar'd, he was resolv'd to *seek* and *plead* (as he was able) for the LORD's *Compassion & Mercy* to him ; and said, If GOD should not shew him Mercy *now*, he believ'd the SPIRIT would never *so strive* with him any more.-----

After considerable Time spent in conversing with him, he remain'd greatly concern'd and distress'd, lest he should not obtain Mercy from GOD : but still resolv'd to seek and cry for it.---

And upon Inquiry Mr. Cotton has been inform'd there is no Reason to hope and believe that GOD *has heard Prayer* for the Man, and *not turned away his Mercy* from him."

*As WESTERLY and CHARLESTOWN in RHODE ISLAND-Colony (of the Propagation of Religion in which two Towns we gave the Rev. Mr. PARK's Account in Page 201) are about a Hundred Miles to the Southward of BOSTON; we now present our Readers with an Account of the Revival of Religion at NEWARK & ELIZABETH-TOWN in the Province of NEW JERSEY, above two Hundred & eighty Miles to the South-Westward of BOSTON; as drawn up by the Rev. Mr. DICKINSON, Pastor of a Church in the last mentioned Town, and sent in a Letter to the Rev. Mr. Foxcroft, as follows---*

*Elizabeth-Town, August 23. 1743*

Rev. and dear Sir,

"**I**N Compliance with your Desire, I shall endeavour to give you a brief Account of the late *Revival of Religion* among us; tho' I dare not attempt to answer your Expectations, by a particular Representation of the extensive Spread of the religious Concern in the distant Parts of *this Province*, and in *Pensylvania*; having no particular Acquaintance with the wonderful Stir, that has been so much spoken of in so many Places in those Parts; and being willing to limit my Narrative to what fell under my more immediate Observation, in *this Town* and in *Newark* which is contiguous to it.

[*Revival of Religion at NEWARK.*]

In *these Towns* RELIGION was in a very low State; Professors generally dead and lifeless; and the Body of our People careless, carnal and secure; that there was but little of the Power of Godliness appearing among us, till some Time in *August 1739*, (the Summer before Mr. Whitefield came first into these Parts) when there was a remarkable *Revival* at *NEWARK*; especially among their rising Generation: Many of whom were now brought under *Convulsions*; and instead of frequenting their vain Company as usual, were flocking to their Minister, with that important Inquiry, *What shall we do to be saved?* --- This Concern increased for a considerable Time among the young People; (tho' not wholly confin'd to them

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and in *November, December and January* following, it became more remarkable, as well as more general. --- There was an apparent Reformation among the *Youth* of the *Town*: their customary Tavern-haunting, Frolicking, and other youthful Extravagancies, were now laid aside: A new Face of Things appeared in the *Town*: All Occasions of religious Conversation were improv'd with Delight: A Seriousness, Solemnity, and devout Attention appeared in their publick Assemblies; and a solemn Concern about their eternal Welfare, was visible in the very Countenances of many. --- This Revival of Religion was chiefly observable among the *younger People*, till the following *March*; when the *whole Town* in general was brought under an uncommon Concern about their eternal Interests; and the Congregation appeared univerally affected under some Sermons that were then preached to 'em; and there is good Reason to conclude, that there was a considerable Number who experienced a *saving Change* about that Time.

The *Summer* following, this awak'ning Concern sensibly abated, tho' it did not wholly die away; and nothing remarkable occurred till *Febr. 1740, 1.* when they were again visited with the special and *manifest Effusions* of the *SPIRIT* of *GOD*. --- A plain familiar Sermon then preached, without any peculiar Terror, Fervor, or affectionate Manner of Address, was set home with Power. Many were brought to see and feel, that till then, they had no more than a Name to live; and Professors in general were put upon serious and solemn Inquiries into the Foundation of their Hope. There seem'd to be very few in the *whole Congregation*, but what felt more or less of the Power of *GOD* at this happy Season; tho' the *greatest Concern* now appeared among the *risen Generation*. --- There is good Reason to conclude, that there were a greater Number now brought home to Christ, than in the former gracious Visitation.

It was remarkable at this Season, that as *Sinners* were generally under an awakening distressing Sense of their Guilt and Danger; so the *Children of God* were greatly refreshed and comforted; their Souls were magnifying the *LORD*, and rejoicing in *GOD their Saviour*, while *others* in distressing Agony were crying out, *Men and Brethren what shall we do?*

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In the Summer following, this religious Concern sensibly decay'd ; tho' the *sincere Converts* now held fast their *Profession* without wavering ; yet there were *too many* who had been under *Convictions*, that grew careless and secure ; and all Endeavours prov'd ineffectual, to give new Life to their former Solicitude about their eternal Welfare.

What seem'd greatly to contribute to this (now growing) Security among these, was the Pride, false and rash Zeal, and Cenforiousness, which appeared among *some few* at this Time, who made high Pretences to Religion. This open'd the Mouths of many against the whole Work ; and raised that Opposition which was not before heard of ; almost every Body seeming to acknowledge the Finger of GOD in these wonderful Appearances, till this Handle was given to their Opposition. And the dreadful Scandals of Mr. C--- which came to Light about this Time, prov'd a Means to still further harden many in their *Declension* and Apostacy. That unhappy Gentleman having made so high Pretensions to extraordinary Piety and Zeal, his Scandals gave the deeper Wound to vital and experimental Godliness.

Thus Sir, I have faithfully given you a Narrative in some brief and general Hints of the late *Revival of Religion* at NEWARK ; and shall now proceed to give you a brief View of the like Manifestations of the divine Grace at ELIZABETH-TOWN.

[*Revival of Religion* at ELIZABETH-TOWN.]

The Reverend Mr. *Whitefield* preach'd a Sermon here in the Fall of the Year 1739, to a numerous and attentive Auditory ; but I could observe no further Influence upon our People by that Address, than a *general Thoughtfulness* about Religion ; and a Promptitude to make the extraordinary Zeal and Diligence of that Gentleman, the common and turning Topick of their Conversation. I don't know that there was any one Person brought under Conviction, or any new and special Concern about their Salvation, by that Sermon ; nor more than one by any Endeavours that were used with them *that Fall*, or the succeeding *Winter*.--- Tho' there was such a shaking among the dry Bones so near to us, as is above represented, and we had continual Accounts from *Newark* of the growing Distress among their People, (their *young People especially*) and of their awful solicitous Concern about their Salvation ;

Salvation ; *our Congregation* remained yet secure and careless ; and could not be awakened out of their Sleep. You will easily conceive, that this must needs be an afflicting and discouraging Consideration to me ; that when from other Places, we had the joyful News of so many *flying to Christ as a Cloud, and as Doves to their Windows*, I had yet Cause to complain, that I *labour'd in vain and spent my Strength for nought*. But notwithstanding all these discouraging Appearances, I could not but entertain an uncommon Concern, particularly for the young People of my Charge, during *that Winter* ; and the *ensuing Spring* ; which not only animated my Addressees to the Throne of Grace on their Behalf, but my Endeavours also, to excite in them if possible, some affecting Sense of their Misery, Danger, and Necessity of a Saviour. To that End, there were *frequent Lectures* appointed for the young People in particular ; but without any visible Success, until some Time in *June 1740*, when we had a *remarkable Manifestation* of the DIVINE PRESENCE with us.

Having at that Time, invited the *young People* to hear a *Sermon*, there was a numerous Congregation conven'd, which consisted chiefly of our Youth, tho' there were many others with them. I preach'd to them a plain, practical Sermon ; without any Pathos or Pungency, or any special Liveliness or Vigour ; for I was then in a remarkably dead and dull Frame, till enliven'd by a *sudden and deep Impression* which visibly appear'd upon the *Congregation in general*.---- There was *no Crying out, or Falling down* ; (as elsewhere has happen'd) but the inward Distress and Concern of the Audience discover'd itself, by their *Tears*, and by an *audible Sobbing and Sighing in almost all Parts of the Assembly*. There appear'd such Tokens of a solemn and deep Concern, as I never before saw in any Congregation whatsoever. From this Time, we heard no more of our *young People's* meeting together for Frolicks and extravagant Diversions, as had been usual among them ; but instead thereof, *private Meetings* for *religious Exercises* were by them set up in several Parts of the Town. All our Opportunities of publick Worship, were carefully and constantly attended by *our People in general* ; and a serious and solemn Attention to the Ministry of the Word, was observable in their very Countenances. Numbers were almost daily repairing to me, for Direction and Assistance

**Assistance in their eternal Concerns.** There were then probably more came to me in *one Day* on that Errand, than usually in *half a Years* space before. \* In a Word, the Face of the Congregation was quite altered; and *Religion* became the common Subject of Conversation among a great Part of the People.

Tho' this Work began among our *young People*; and the most of those with whom we have Reason to conclude it became effectual, were of the younger Sort; yet there were some who had lived a careless and sensual Life to an *advanced Age*, who were under *Convictions*, and (I hope) *savingly brought home to CHRIST*; at this blessed Time of the *Effusions* of his HOLY SPIRIT. And some from the Episcopal Congregation, who by occasional attending upon our publick Worship, were brought under *Convictions*, are now joined in Communion with us, and appear to be *Christians* indeed.

Tho' there were so many brought under *Convictions* at once, we had very little Appearance of those irregular Heats among us, which are so loudly complain'd of in some other Parts of the Land. I don't remember to have heard of above two or three Instances of any Thing of that Nature, in this Congregation; and those easily and speedily regulated.

It is observable that *this Work* was *substantially the same* in all the differing Subjects of it, tho' some passed thro' much greater Degrees of Distress and Terror than others; and this Distress lasted much longer with some than with others; yet all were brought under a deep Sense of their Sin, Guilt, and Danger; and none (that I know of) obtain'd *satisfying Discoveries* of Safety in CHRIST, till they were first brought to despair of *Help from themselves* or *any of their own Refuges*, and to see and feel that *they lay at Mercy*.

(To be finished in our next.)

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- \* Agreeable to this, the Rev. Mr. *Dickinson* in another Letter wrote about that Time to the Rev. Mr. *Foxcroft*, viz. *September 4. 1740*, has these remarkable Passages--- "I have  
 " still the comfortable News to inform you of, that there  
 " is yet a *great Revival of Religion* in these Parts. I have  
 " had more *young People* address me for Direction in their  
 " spiritual Concerns *within this three Months* than in *thirty*  
 " *Years* before."